

Although distinction must be made between those households deriving their livelihood from family farms and between wage labour involved in agriculture most official data, to the extent that they count small holders within the civilian labour force do not make such distinction and collapse both categories under the "agricultural sector." Table 7:1 is an exception but does not reveal much about the number of wage workers within the agricultural system.<sup>3</sup> All the trends however, show a decline in the number of both agricultural workers and household members involved in their family farms. This is caused by two opposite features of contemporary Palestinian agriculture: increased productivity in some lands due to the introduction of technology, and marginalization of hilly lands due to negligence. As a consequence the most dramatic changes in the West Bank labour force has taken place in the agriculture sector. Between the years 1968-1976 the region witnessed a drop of 10,600 workers employed in agriculture: thus while in 1968 half the total labour force was involved in agriculture, in 1976 it constituted only 26.1%, a decline of 28.9% (Awartani, 1978:6).

Out of a total of 213,000 employed from the occupied territories in 1978, about 143,000 -- roughly two-thirds of the labour force -- worked inside the territories (Gaza and the West Bank) and 68,000 (about one-third) worked inside Israel. Table BII(appendix) shows the distribution of those employed by economic branch. The main difference in the distribution of the labour force between those working "at home" and the internal migrants working in Israel is reflected in the exceptionally large figure for those working in Israeli construction (46% from the West Bank, and 44.3% from Gaza) compared to only 15.2% of the labour force in the West Bank and Gaza employed in local construction (SLFAT, 1979). Despite a slight decline in the percentage of workers employed in construction their aggregate number